

Clean Version of Pending Claims

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Sub C1
1. (Twice Amended) In a one-piece plate for providing a fluid seal between two port faces, the plate including an interior opening having a boundary and a one-piece annular seal disposed within the boundary of the opening,

the improvement comprising a support ring disposed within the annular seal,

wherein the support ring has an outside diameter which is greater than an inside diameter of the seal and less than an outside diameter of the seal,

wherein the support ring includes at least one orifice which provides a fluid connection between said opening and said annular seal.

2. The improvement of Claim 1, wherein the annular seal comprises a flexible O-ring, and wherein the support ring comprises a metal ring.

3. The improvement of Claim 1, wherein the support ring has an outer boundary which faces an inner border of the annular seal, and wherein the support ring is chamfered on said outer boundary.

4. The improvement of Claim 3, wherein the support ring has two chamfers, both chamfers making an angle of about 45° with an axis of the support ring.

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23. In a plate for providing a fluid seal between two port faces, the plate including an opening having a boundary and an annular seal disposed within the boundary of the opening,

the improvement comprising a support ring disposed within the annular seal, wherein the support ring includes at least one orifice which provides a fluid connection between said opening and said annular seal.

24. In a plate for providing a fluid seal between two port faces, the plate including an opening having a boundary and an annular seal disposed within the boundary of the opening,

the improvement comprising a support ring disposed within the annular seal,

wherein the support ring has an outer boundary which faces an inner border of the annular seal, and wherein the support ring is chamfered on said outer boundary,

wherein the support ring includes at least one orifice which provides a fluid connection between said opening and said annular seal.

25. A plate for providing a fluid seal between two port faces, comprising:

- a) an opening formed in the plate, the opening having a boundary,
- b) an annular seal disposed within the boundary of the opening, and
- c) a support ring disposed within the annular seal,

wherein the support ring includes at least one orifice which provides a fluid connection between said opening and said annular seal.

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26. A plate for providing a fluid seal between two port faces, comprising:

- a) an opening formed in the plate, the opening having a boundary,
- b) an annular seal disposed within the boundary of the opening, and
- c) a support ring disposed within the annular seal,

wherein the support ring has an outer boundary which faces an inner border of the annular seal, and wherein the support ring is chamfered on said outer boundary,

wherein the support ring has two chamfers, both chamfers making an angle of about 45° with an axis of the support ring, and

wherein the support ring includes at least one orifice which provides a fluid connection between said opening and said annular seal.

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27 (New) In a one-piece plate for providing a fluid seal between two port faces, the plate including an interior opening having a boundary and a one-piece annular seal disposed within the boundary of the opening,

the improvement comprising a support ring disposed within the annular seal,

wherein the support ring has an outside diameter which is greater than an inside diameter of the seal and less than an outside diameter of the seal,

wherein the support ring has an outer boundary which faces an inner border of the annular seal, and wherein the support ring is chamfered on said outer boundary,

and wherein the support ring includes at least one orifice which provides a fluid connection between said opening and said annular seal.